(b) what are the advantages of the merger; and

(c) how does Government ensure co-ordination between the Central and State schemes?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The merger of Rural Development Programmes would facilitate in consolidation of programme activities and channelisation of funds in a more focussed manner at the planning and implementation stages.

(c) Co-ordination between Central and State schemes is done during plan discussions in the Planning Commission, and by way of Annual Performance Review.

Villages in Bihar connected with roads under PMGSY

†1876. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages connected with road under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in Bihar;

(b) the number of villages targeted to be connected during 2002-2003; and

(c) the names of villages likely to be connected under the scheme in the District of Muzaffarpur.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) Road works cleared in respect of Bihar under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for the year 2000-01 aim to provide road connectivity to 379 unconnected habitations and another 221 habitations stand to benefit through upgradation of existing rural roads.

(b) and (c) Project proposals for the year 2002-03 are yet to be obtained from the States, including Bihar.

Benefit of SGSY to people of Gujarat

1877. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch any plan of Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana;

(b) if so, the salient feature of the Plan;

(c) the funds allocated to the Government of Gujarat; and

(d) the manner in which the Yojana is likely to be beneficial to the people of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) The Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is already under implementation since 1.4.1999.

(b) The salient features of the Scheme are as under:

- The SGSY is an integrated programme for Self-Employment of families below the poverty line (BPL) in rural areas.
- It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the financing is shared between the Centre and the States in the ratio of 75:25.
- The objective of the Programme is to bring the assisted poor families above the poverty line by organising them into Self Help Groups (SHGs) through the process of social mobilisation, their training and capacity building including skill upgradation and